Production of Edible Oils

921. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is producing the required quantity of edible oils;

(b) if so, the requirement, production and consumption of edible oils during the last three years, State-wise particularly in Gujarat;

(c) the quantity of edible oils imported during the said period; and

(d) the percentage of population in the country consuming indigenous edible oils, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The import of edible oils during the last three years is as under:-

(Quantity in lakh Mts)

Year	Improts of edible Oils*
1999-2000	41.96
2000-2001	41.77
2001-2002	42.14 (Prov.)

Source: *DGCI & S, Kolkata

Approximately 55% of the demand is met through indigenous oils. Data relating to consumption of edible oils, State-wise is not maintained as there is no restriction on the inter-State movement of oilseeds/oils.

Exports of Poor Quality of Rice

922. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that between January and September 2002, traders have exported four lakh tonnes of poor quality rice even though contracts specified higher quality and pocketed the difference;

(b) whether FCI allows exporters to pick up extra rice to improve consignment quality and whether exporters misused contracts specifying 5 per cent brokens to buy more subsidised rice from Government and sell it off in the domestic market at a hefty premium; and

(c) whether Government would consider banning and sale of subsidised rice in the local market and also refuse to sell extra rice for quality upgradation by exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Government is not aware of any such instance regarding non-performance of contractual obligations. The exporters are required to export the same quality of rice that is lifted from the Central Pool stocks. Presently, export documents are required to be submitted for 98% of the quantity lifted as only 2% allowance is given for operational losses.

Surplus foodgrains with FCI

923. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the surplus stock of foodgrains lying in FCI warehouses in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have taken any measures to make fresh procurement of foodgrains and its proper storage;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the quantum of foodgrains exported during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The stock of foodgrains exceeding the prescribed buffer stocking norms of foodgrains as on a particular Quarter of a Year, is considered surplus stock in the Central Pool. Buffer stocking norms of foodgrains are prescribed for the country as a whole and not state-wise.